

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 OMB-01 SAJ-01 CU-02 IO-13 /086 W

----- 058778

R 010108Z DEC 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2898

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, CH, AL

SUBJECT: CHINA CELEBRATES ALBANIAN LIBERATION ANNIVERSARY

REF: HONG KONG 13134

1. DESIRE TRADITIONAL CHINESE HIGH-LEVEL MEDIA TREATMENT AND LEADERSHIP TURNOUT FOR THE 32ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF ALBANIA, SIGNS REMAIN OF A COOLING IN PRC-ALBANIAN RELATIONS. AS IN THE PAST FEW YEARS, A PARTY VICE-CHAIRMAN YEH CHIEN-YING, LED THE CHINESE TURNOUT, AND THE ANNIVERSARY WAS MARKED BY A PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL. HOWEVER, NEITHER THE EDITORIAL NOR THE SPEECH GIVEN BY PRC MINISTER OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES FANG YI AT THE ALBANAIN AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION MADE REFERENCE TO THE 7TH CONGRESS OF THE ALBANIAN PARTY OF LABOR (APL), CONCLUDED EARLIER THIS MONTH. BY CONTRAST, FOLLOWING THE 6TH APL CONGRESS IN 1971, BOTH THE PRC EDITORIAL AND RECEPTION SPEECH FOR THE LIBERATION ANNIVERSARY GAVE GREAT PRAISE TO THE CONGRESS' CONCLUSION, THIS SEEMS A FUTHER INDICATION OF CHINESE CONCERN WITH THE 7TH CONGRESS, AT WHICH ALBANIAN PARTY LEADER ENVER HOXHA MADE NO MENTION OF THE NEW CHINESE

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LEADERSHIP (REFTEL. ADDITIONALLY THE PRC THIS YEAR REFERRED

TO HOXHA IN THE EDITORIAL AND MINISTER'S SPEECH ONLY AS
"COMRADE", THATER THAN ZGREAT LEADER", THE USUAL APPELLATION.

2. THE POEPL' DAILY EDITORIAL WARNED THAT ANY ATTEMPT BY
SOCIAL-IMPERIALSIM TO SOW DISCORD BETWEEN ALBANIA AND CHINA
AND RESORT TO SABOTAGE:" WILL BE FUTILE". AN APPARENT REFERENCE
TO THE RECENT SOVIET OFFER TO ALBANIA TO RESTORE BROKEN RELTIONS.
MOREOVER, THE FACT THAT THE PRC MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC RELATIONS
WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES MADE THE RECEPTION SPEECH, AND THAT
MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE LI CHIANG LED THE CHINESE TURNOUT
FOR THE 27TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SINO-ALBANIAN
DIPLOMATIC RELTTIONS NOVEMBER 23, SUGGESTS THAT THE CHINESE
ARE TRYING TO HIGHLIGHT ECONOMIC RELATIONS BEWTEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES.

3. COMMENT: THE CHINESE, IT SEEMS TO US, WOULD PREFER TO
MAINTAIN CLOSE TIES WITH THE ALBANIANS, BUT THE LATTER APPEAR
UPSET WITH THE RECENT FALL OF SEVERAL CHINESE LEADERS WHOM
THE ALBANIANS HIGHLY REGARDED. THIS HAS PRODUCED SOME UNEASE
IN BILATERAL RELATIONS BUT THIER COMMON INTRESTS WOULD SEEM
TO DICTATE A REASONABLE LEVEL OF CONTINUING COOPERATION.
CROSS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS COMMENTS, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976HONGK13924
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760444-0753
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761284/aaaacupa.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 HONG KONG 13134
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <03 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHINA CELEBRATES ALBANIAN LIBERATION ANNIVERSARY
TAGS: PFOR, CH, AL, (YEH CHIEN-YING)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006